

Ivan Brandon  
Nic Klein  
**#10**  
\$ 3.50



DEFENDING



We'd crossed over the dark of the world and found another piece of my ship crashed in its flesh. Engine lit still and warm and going nowhere like the heart of the planet itself.

More than we needed for parts.  
More than we ever would.

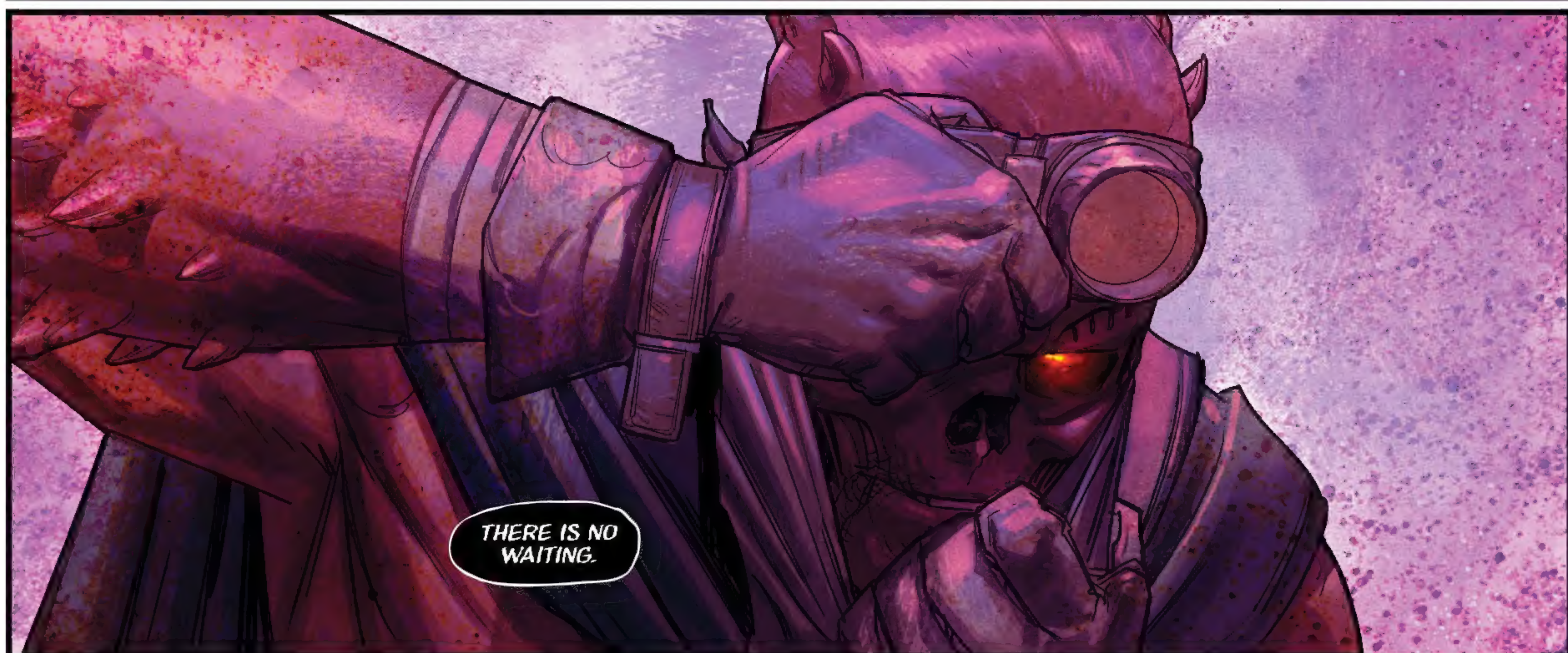
We met a Wheeler there, the kind that spoke and led his kind and man alike. Kin to the one I'd met in the dark but at crossed purpose. Told me they meant us to die. That we had work to do and when we were done it would be time.

Another in our pack heard what he'd said. A Wheeler. Heard it for the other one, in the dark, speaker and kin.

We loaded up to leave and heard a fire unnatural that seemed to make the planet shake.

Lit up the sky so far they'd see it through the night.

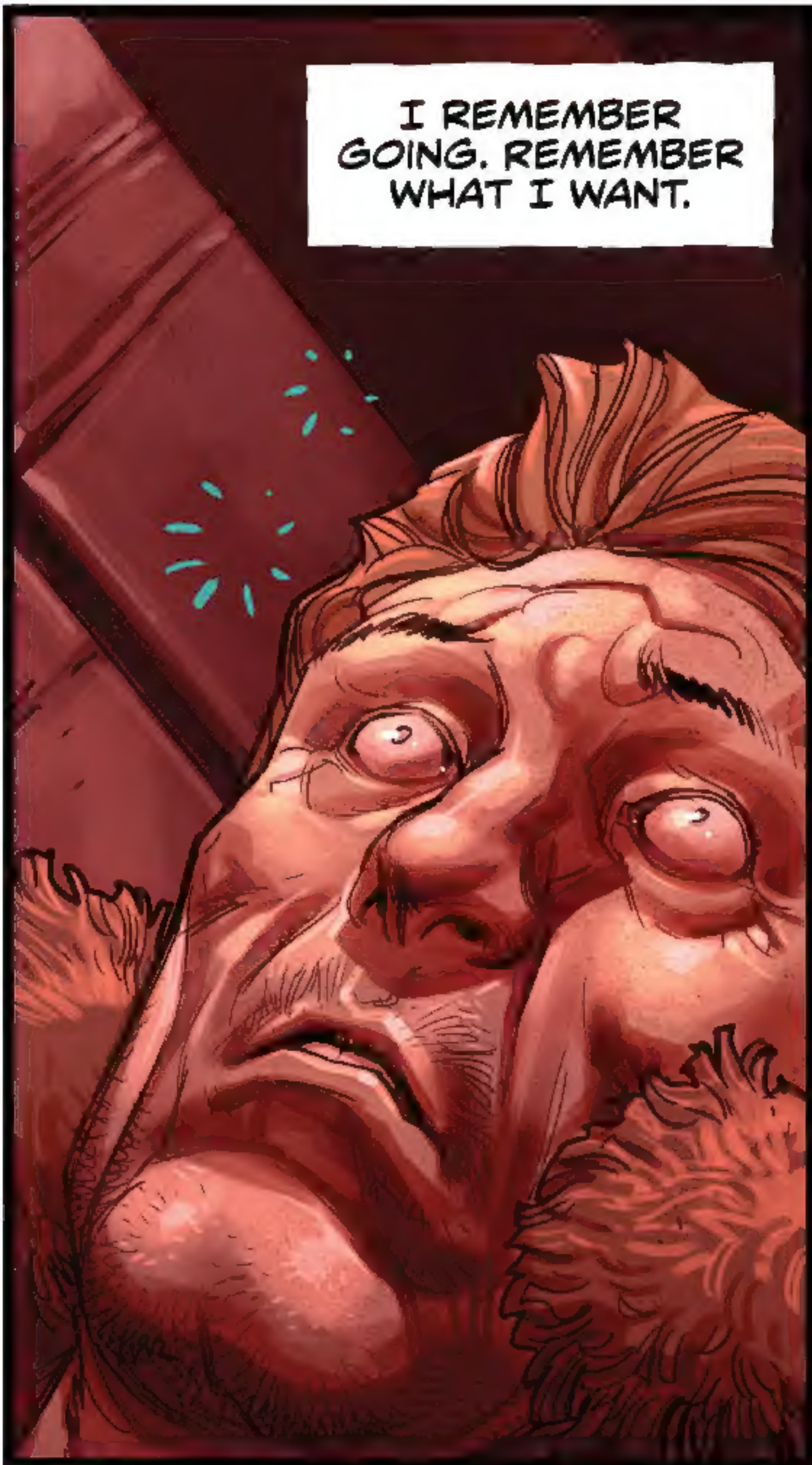








AT NIGHT  
I'M WHO  
I WAS.



I REMEMBER  
GOING. REMEMBER  
WHAT I WANT.



I WAKE UP  
FEARFUL.



WHAT'S PAST A  
DREAM NOT HALF  
REMEMBERED.



THIS PLACE  
ON FIRE. THESE  
STRANGERS  
LOST WITH ME.



ALL OF US  
FALLING.













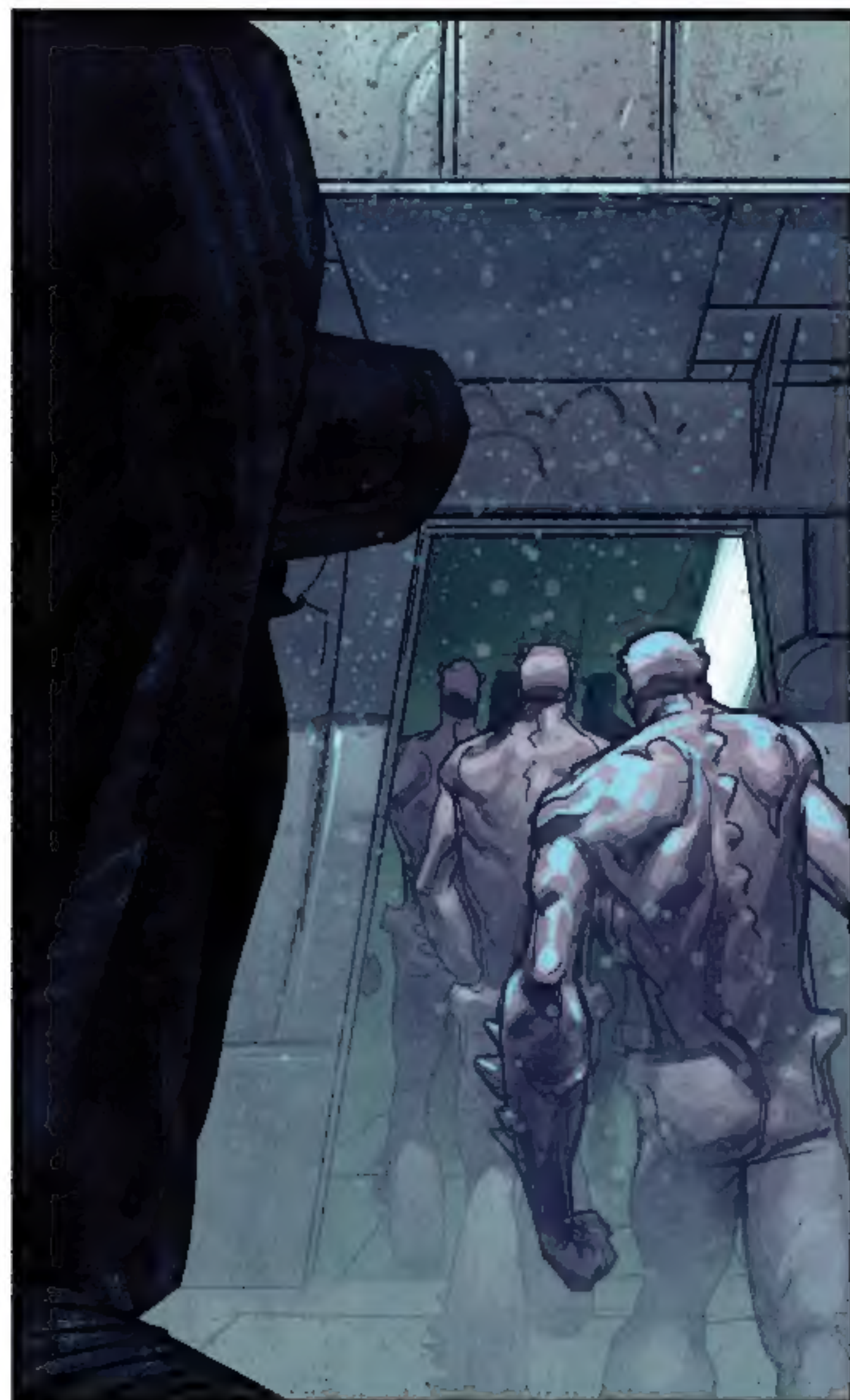
*They seemed to  
be there all along.*



*Like they were waiting  
just behind our backs.*



*Lined up like sentries,  
barring the way.  
Everyone else  
spun up inside.*











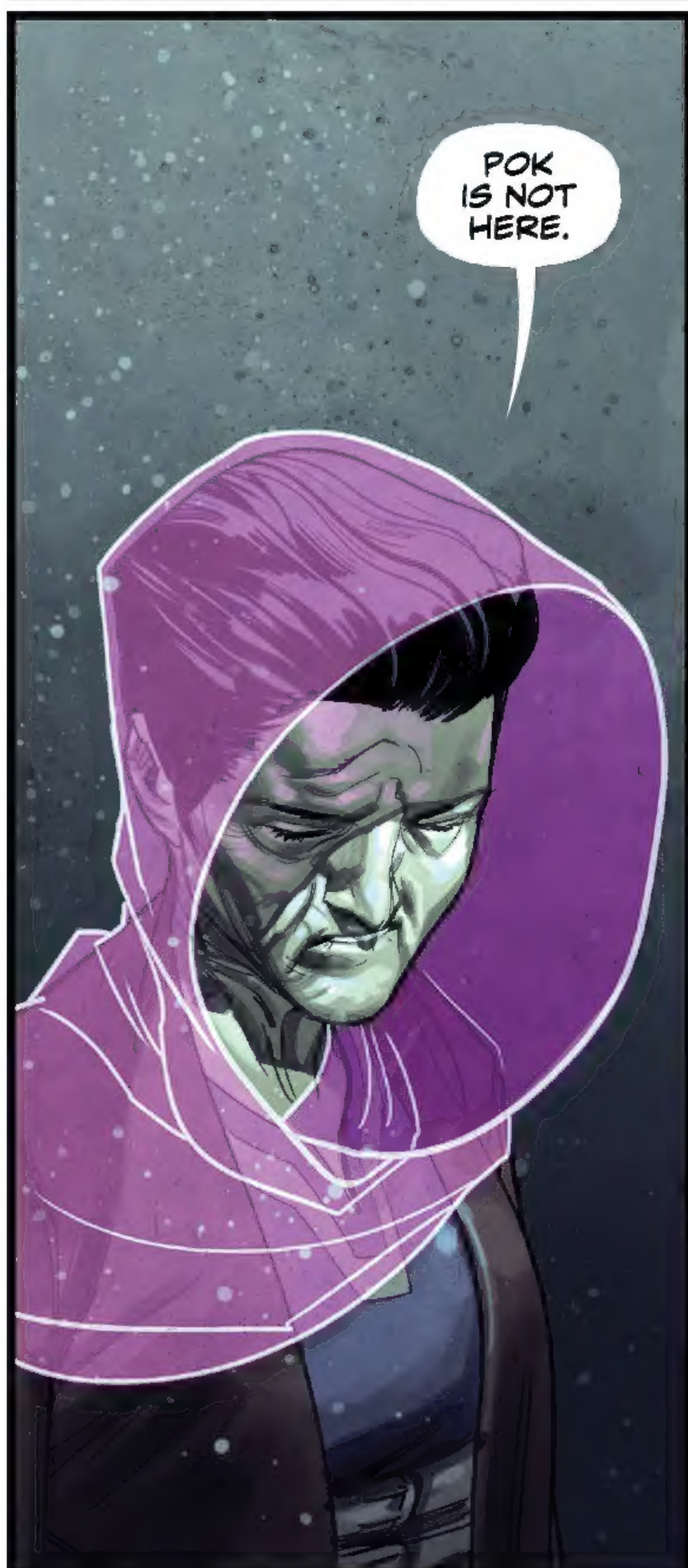
WE GOTTA  
GET BACK. WE  
GOTTA GO  
BACK NOW.



THE SKY  
IS **ASH**,  
POLLUX. OUR  
VISIBILITY IS  
CLOSE TO  
ZERO.



WE CAN ALL  
GO, OR YOU CAN  
STROLL ON FOOT.  
BUT IT'S TIME TO  
**LEAVE**, YOU  
UNDERSTAND?



POK  
IS NOT  
HERE.



HE AIN'T  
**ANYWHERE**.  
HE'S PART OF  
THAT **SMOKE**.  
THE CAUSE  
AND THE  
EFFECT.





WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

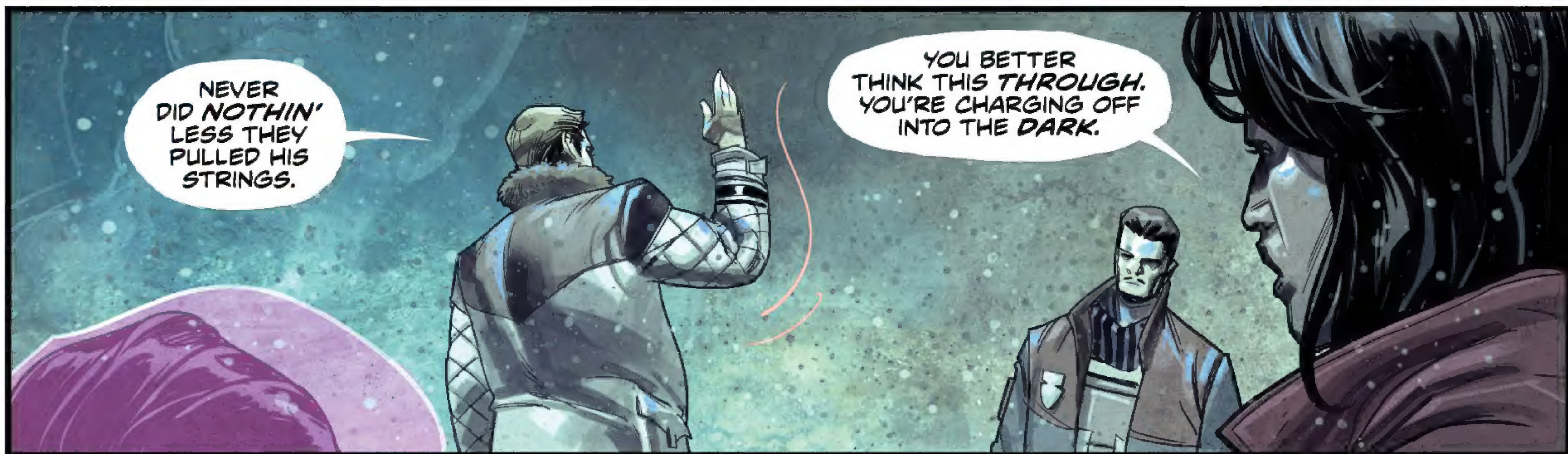


I'M SAYIN' HE LIT THIS FIRE, AND NOW HE'S GONE.

YOU GET ME NOW? HE GOT HIS ORDERS AND HE LIT IT UP.



WHY WOULD HE... HE WOULD NOT *HURT* ME. HE WOULD NOT *HURT* US.



NEVER DID *NOTHIN'* LESS THEY PULLED HIS STRINGS.

YOU BETTER THINK THIS *THROUGH*. YOU'RE CHARGING OFF INTO THE *DARK*.



I PLAN TO THINK OUT LOUD.



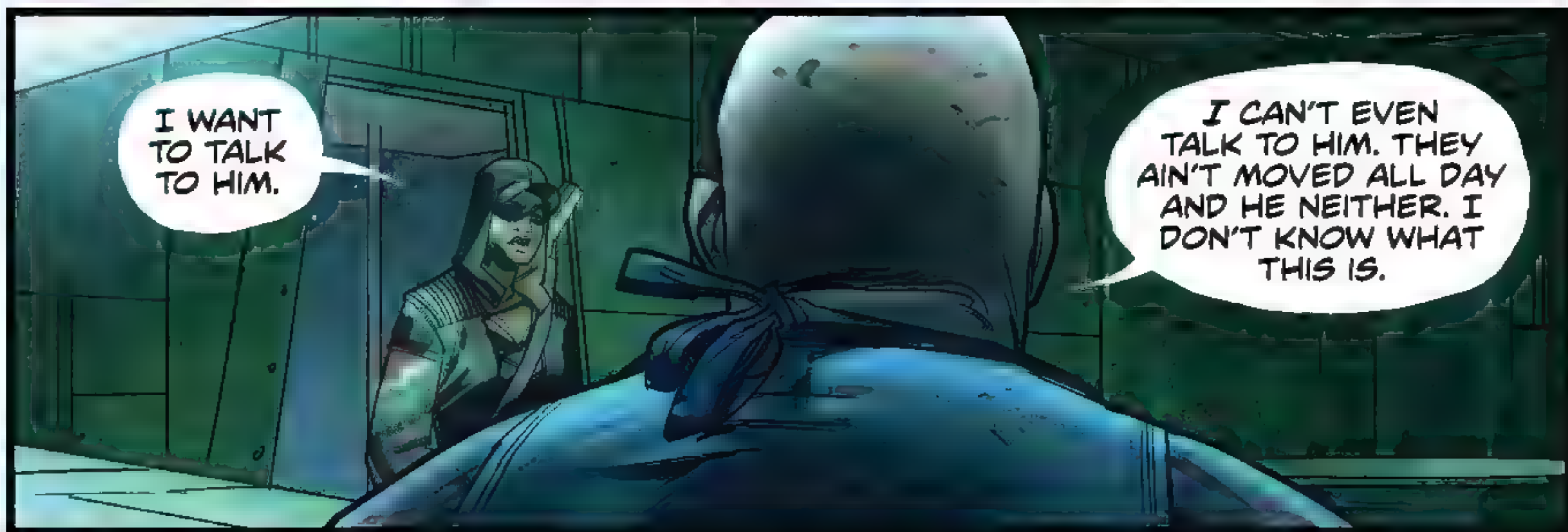
It should  
be day.



What would it  
take to break  
the sunlight?



I WANT  
TO TALK  
TO HIM.



I CAN'T EVEN  
TALK TO HIM. THEY  
AIN'T MOVED ALL DAY  
AND HE NEITHER. I  
DON'T KNOW WHAT  
THIS IS.

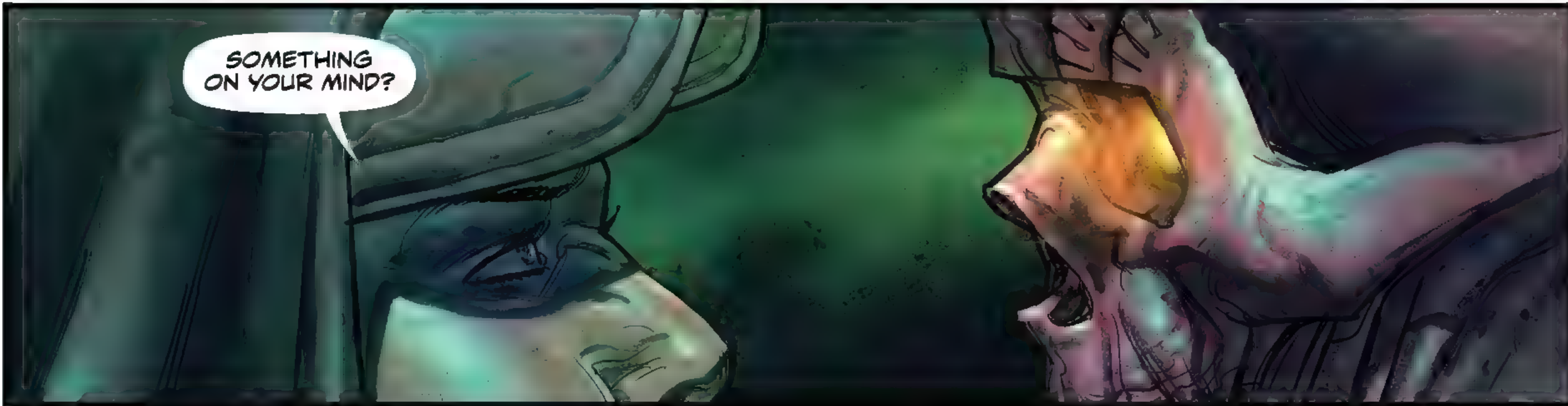
I NEED  
TO TALK.



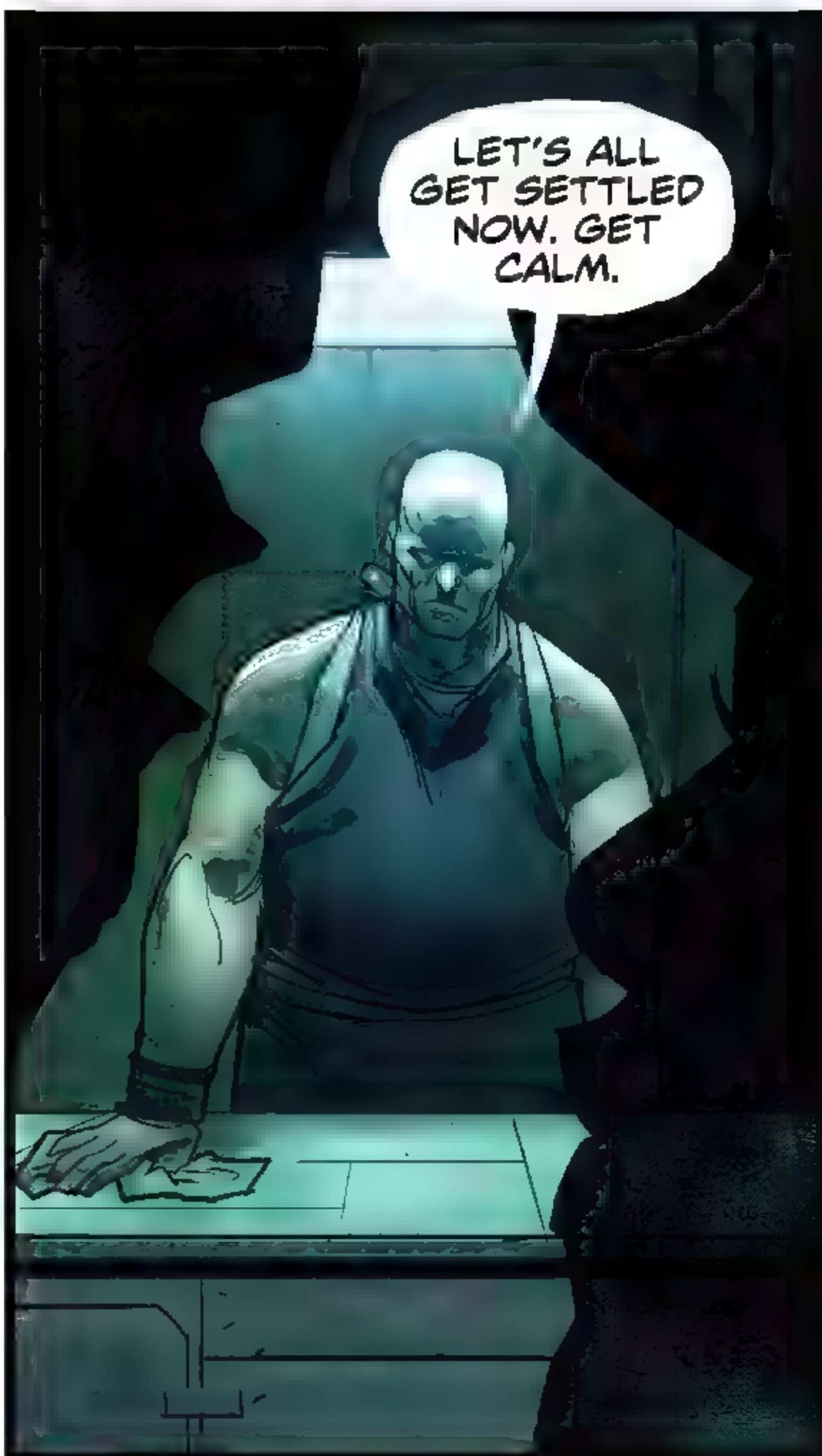
YOU  
HEAR ME UP  
THERE?







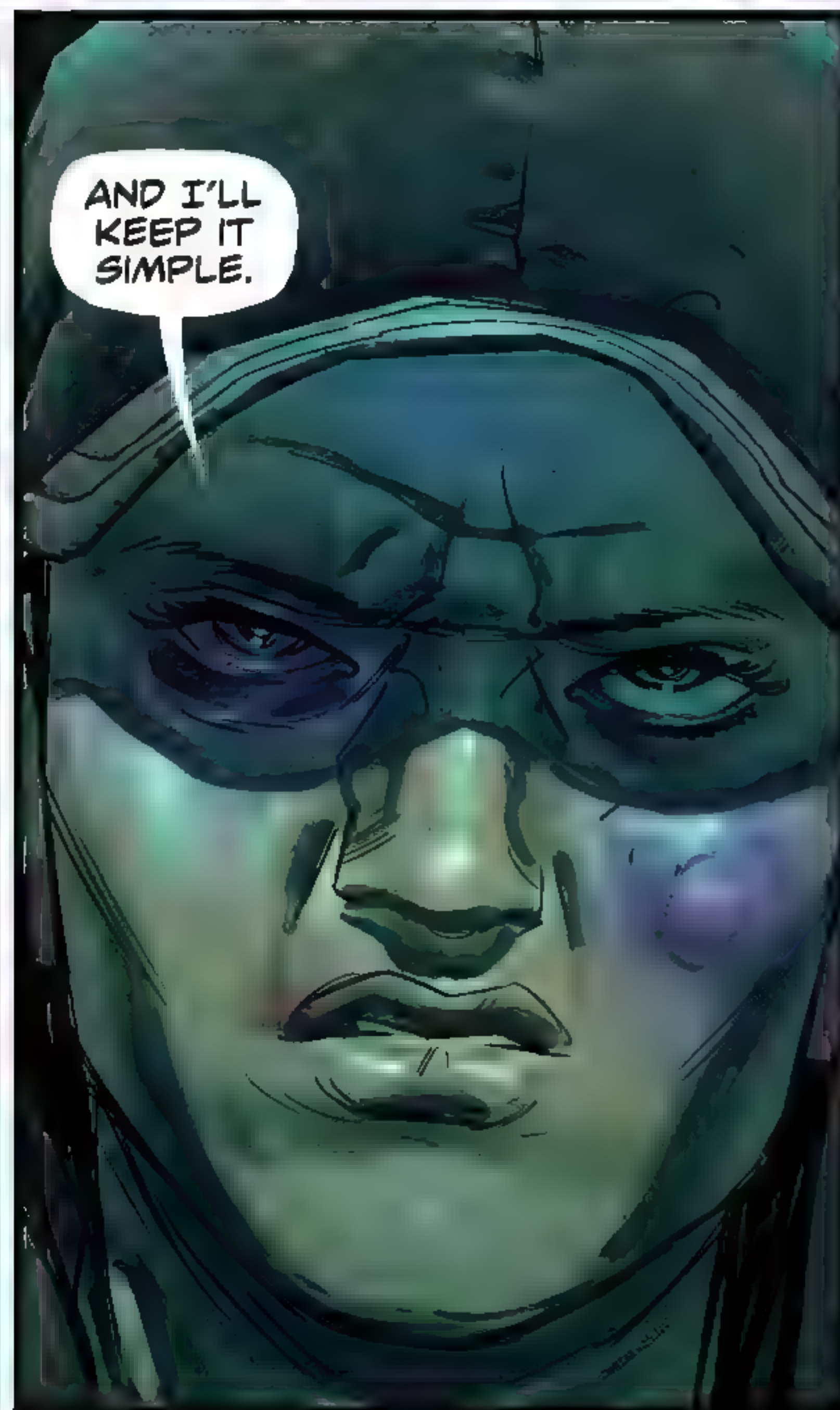
SOMETHING  
ON YOUR MIND?



LET'S ALL  
GET SETTLED  
NOW. GET  
CALM.



HE MAY  
NOT WANNA  
TALK, BUT I  
KNOW HE'LL  
LISTEN.



AND I'LL  
KEEP IT  
SIMPLE.









WHAT'S GOING ON NOW?  
YOU HERE TO  
DRINK OR JUST  
TO STAND  
THERE?



THEY'RE GONNA  
COME FOR US. ALL  
OF THEM. WE DONE  
SOMETHING TO  
WRONG THEM.



I HAVEN'T  
DONE A THING.  
YOU DO  
SOMETHING,  
FARRO?



WE *MUST*  
HAVE. GO ON  
AND LOOK AT  
WHERE WE  
ARE. LOOK UP  
ABOVE.



THE  
WHEELERS  
LIVED HERE  
ALMOST LONG  
AS US. WE  
WORK BESIDE  
THEM.





WE WORK  
BENEATH  
THEM.

YOU  
KNOW THAT'S  
RIGHT.

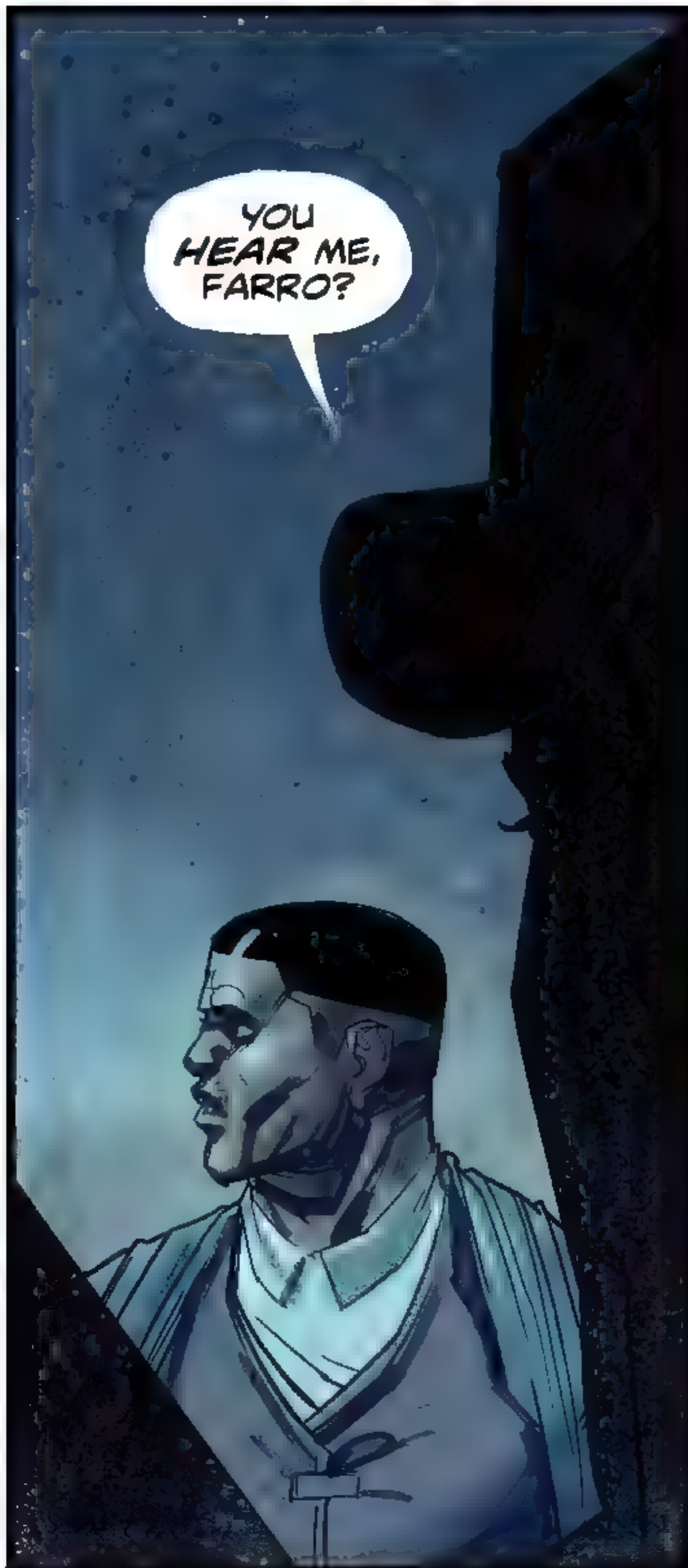


YOU WANNA  
QUIT YOUR  
JOB? YOU'RE  
WELCOME.



THAT  
GOES FOR  
ANYONE HERE.  
BUT IF YOU  
DON'T?

THEN  
GO ON  
HOME.



YOU  
HEAR ME,  
FARRO?



THE LINE HAD GONE. WE  
CROSSED BACK FROM  
WHAT WAS EVENING INTO  
DAY, ALL OF IT MISSING.

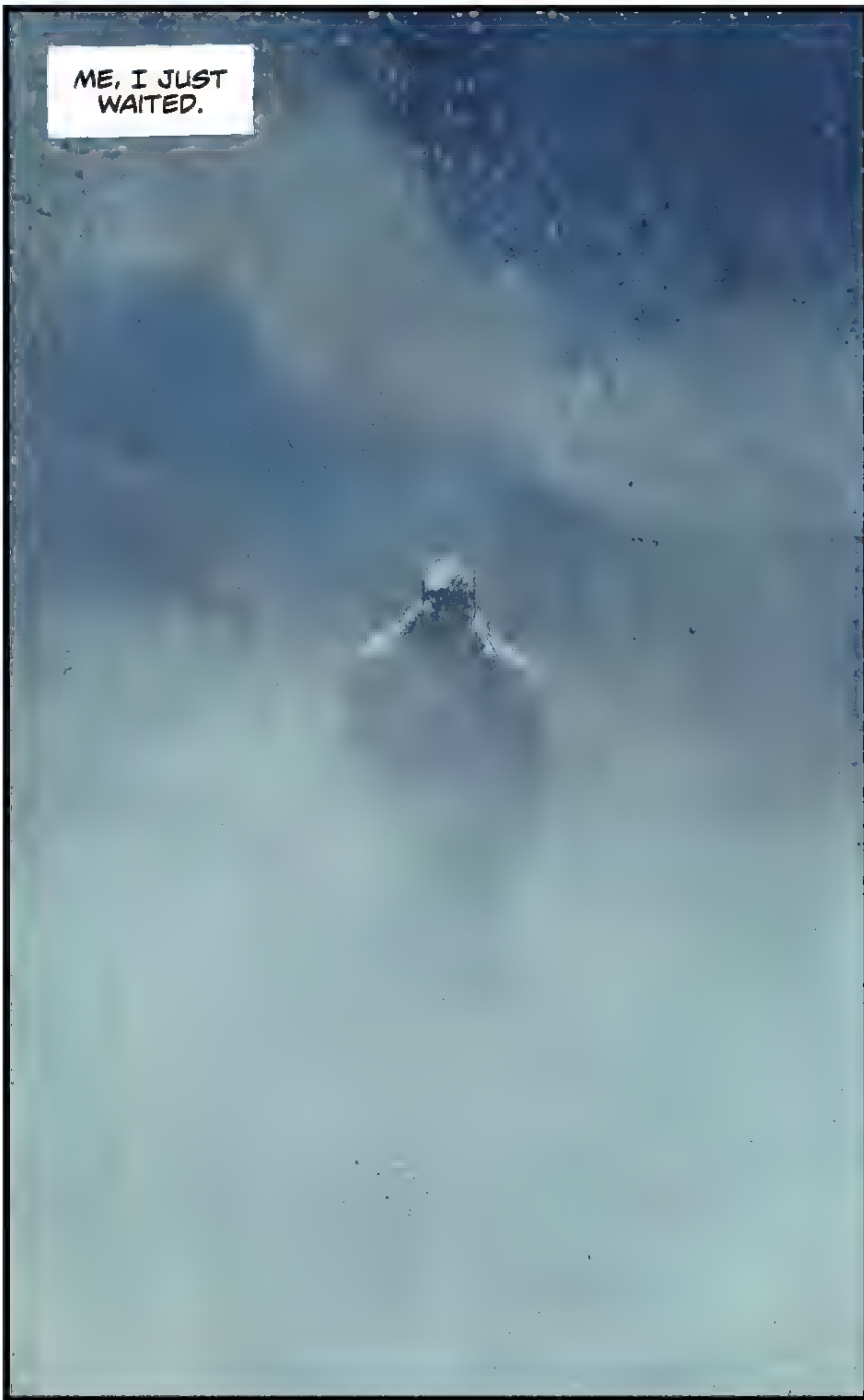




ALL OF  
IT ASH.



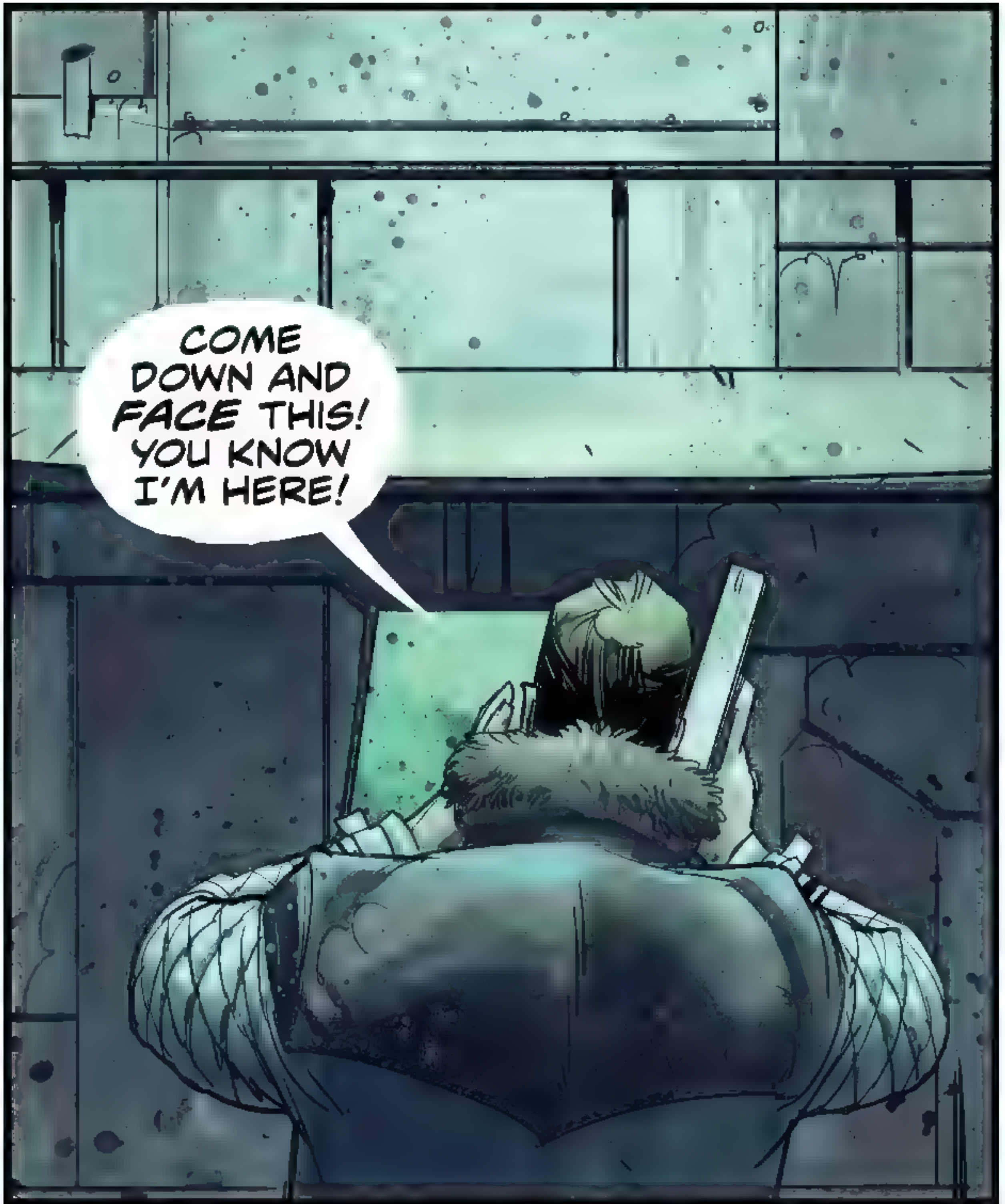
THE TRUCK  
SCRAPED AND  
SPIT ACROSS  
THE AMBIT OF  
THE WORLD.



ME, I JUST  
WAITED.



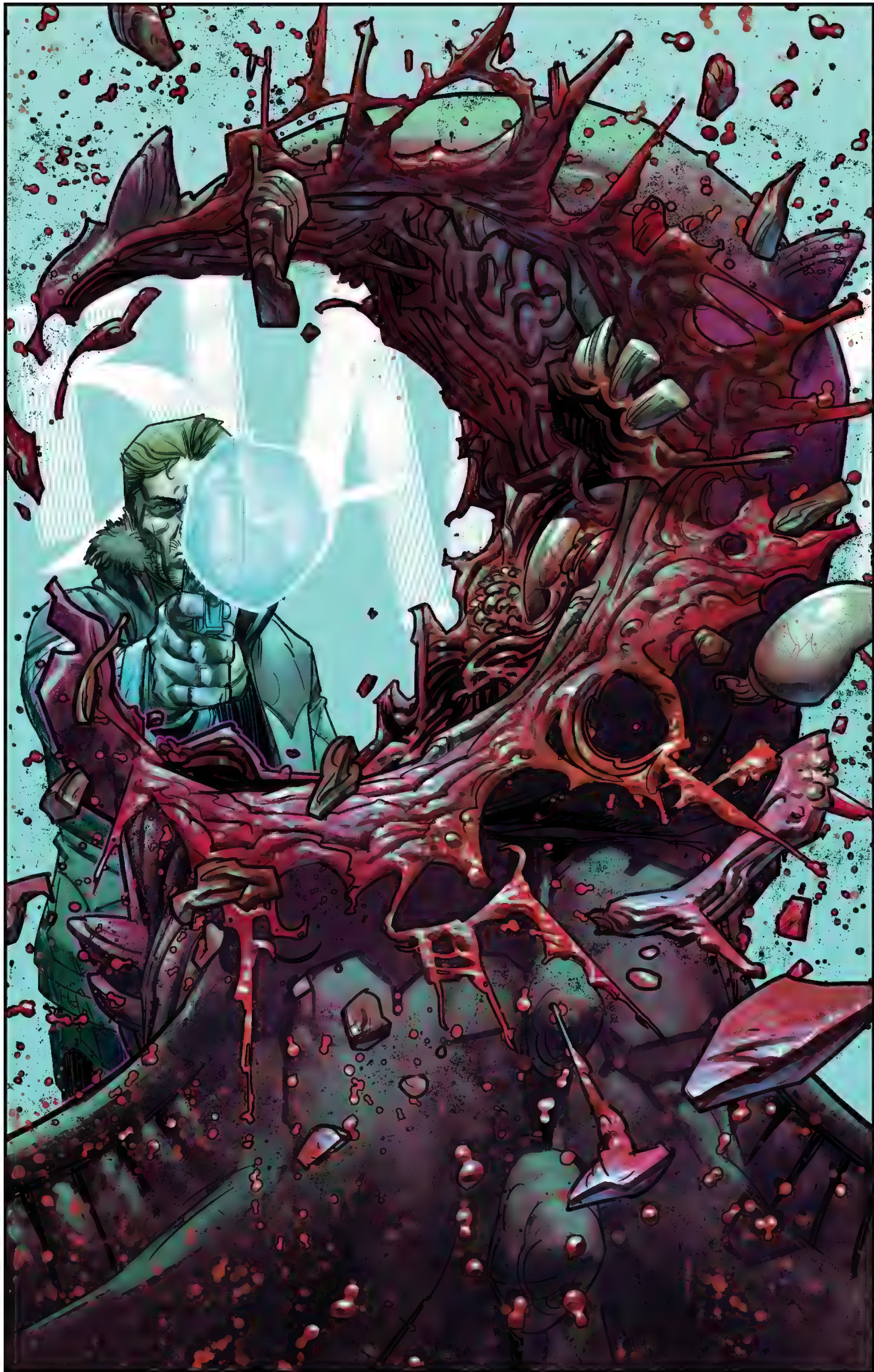




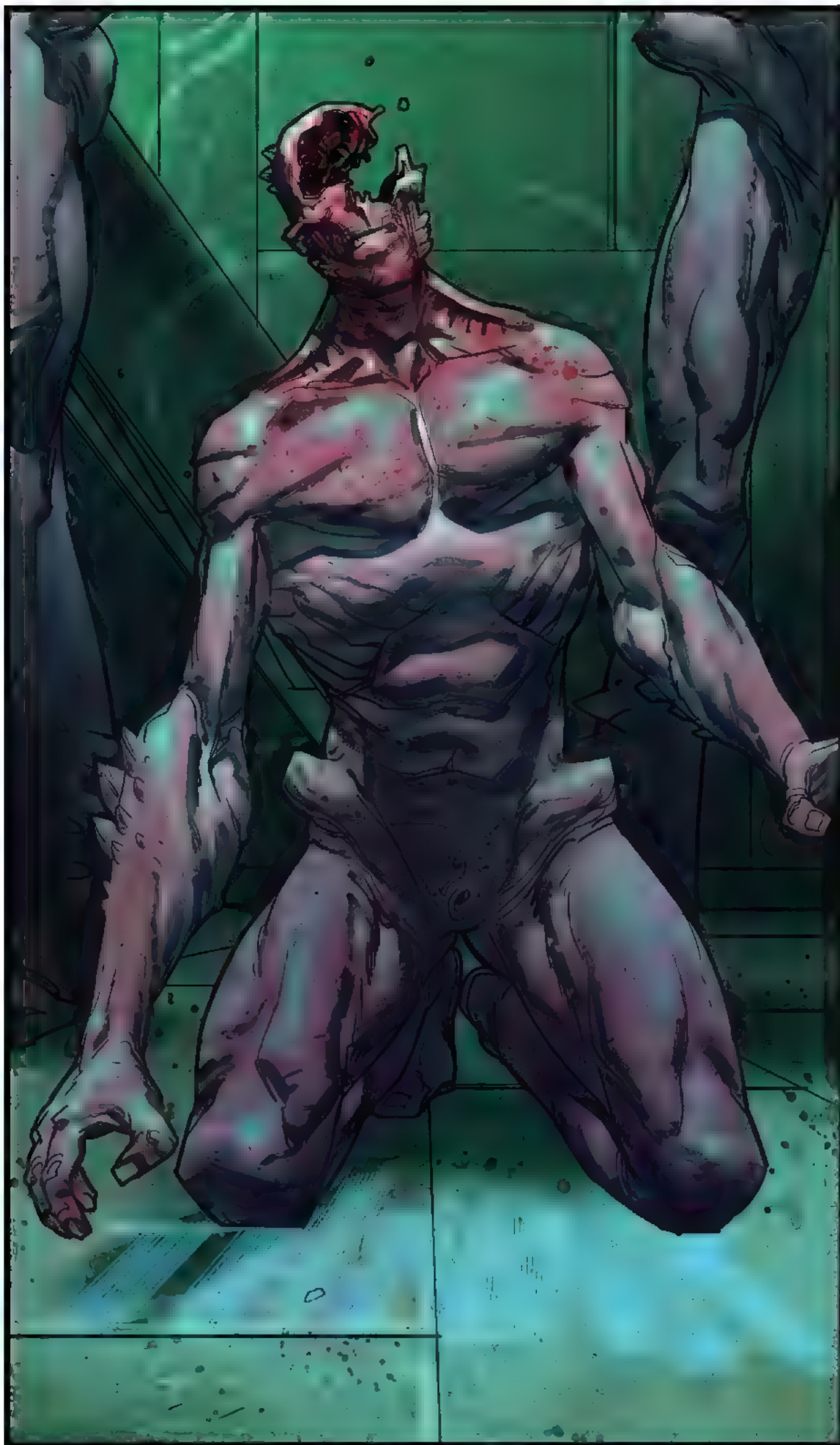
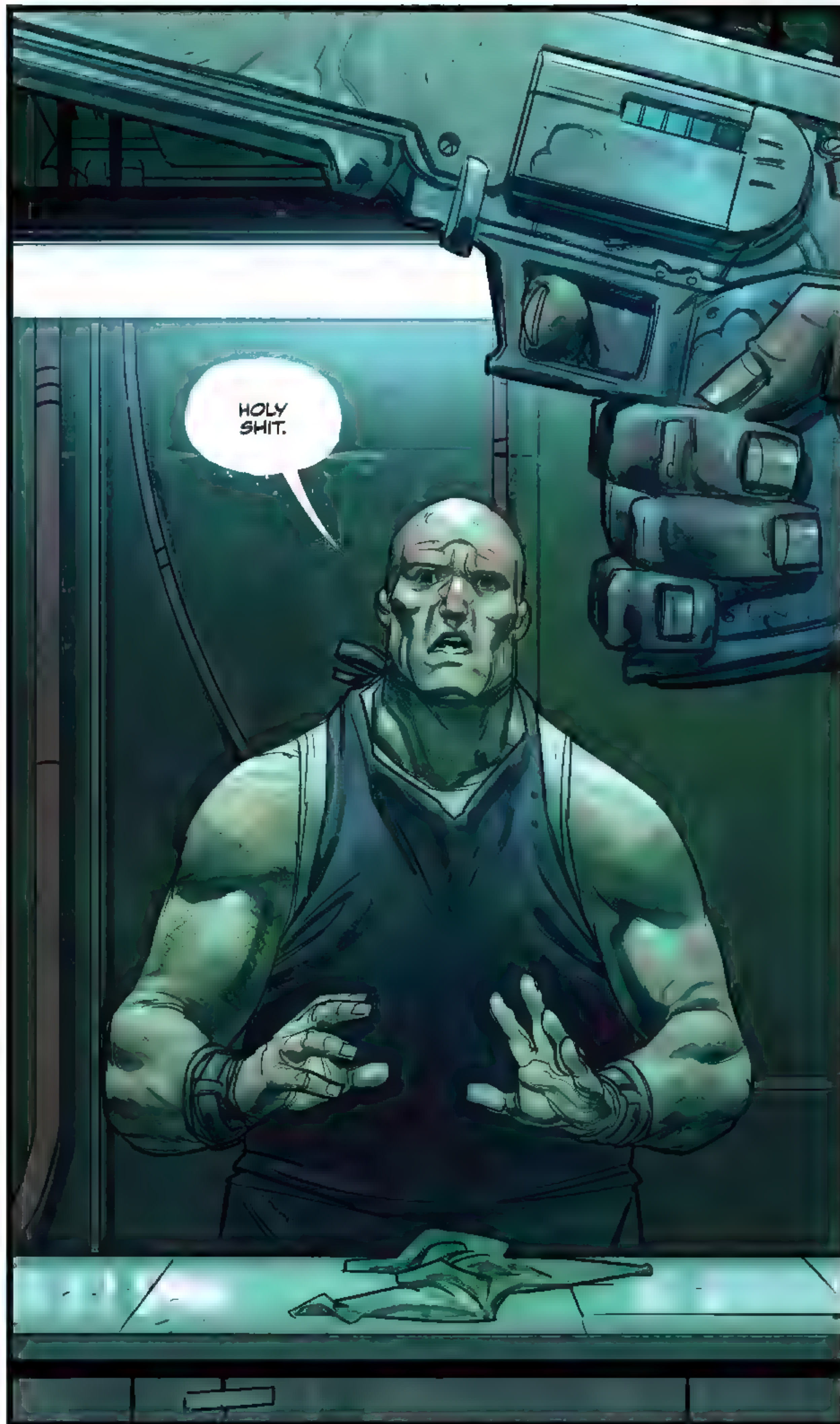






















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Cover B: Goran Parlov (Nic Klein colors)  
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DRIFTER created by Ivan Brandon and Nic Klein  
AN OFFSET COMICS PRODUCTION

# WINTER

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END

## TRANSMISSION

### WELCOME BACK DRIFTERS!

I hope you like our 3rd story. It's going to get messy.

I want to add a disclaimer here at the beginning: Image's policy is to have a publishing break between every story arc, and either way we'd need them, but when the book is off the shelves we're not taking a BREAK. We're still working on it every day.

The thing is: it takes a long time to make Drifter, especially on Nic Klein's end. Go ahead and flip through this issue again, we'll wait. Can you see it? Nic works on this book most every day of his life, but this is basically a painted book, so the art is time-intensive. That work can only produces 8 or 9 issues a year. So these breaks are built in to keep each storyarc on time. Think of it as seasonal, like TV. Sometimes it's not Drifter season. But we're always at work.

We had a pretty amazing end to last year and I thought maybe we should share some fun from the road.

Drifter's in print in a lot of different languages now, and we were invited to Europe in the fall to do a little bit of a tour. Nic and I started in Paris at Album Comics, through Lille at Astro City, then over to Italy for the Lucca Comics and Games festival, which is the biggest gathering for comics in the western world.

The Lucca festival ran through Halloween, and like the terrible visitors we are, Nic and I did our signing that day in the laziest costume we could muster. Nic drew a billion Polluxes and we signed hundreds of books.

We had an incredible time and met what seemed like an infinite supply of readers. It was a really inspiring experience and the first time Nic and I had been in the same place in a lot of years.

And the food... don't get us started on the food....

It's great to see you all out there in the world, reading our weirdo space story. Next month we'll be in Germany at the Erlangen Comics Salon signing for Drifter and the German release of our first book together: Viking.

Thank you for making all this happen.

Ivan Brandon

On a couch in Brooklyn







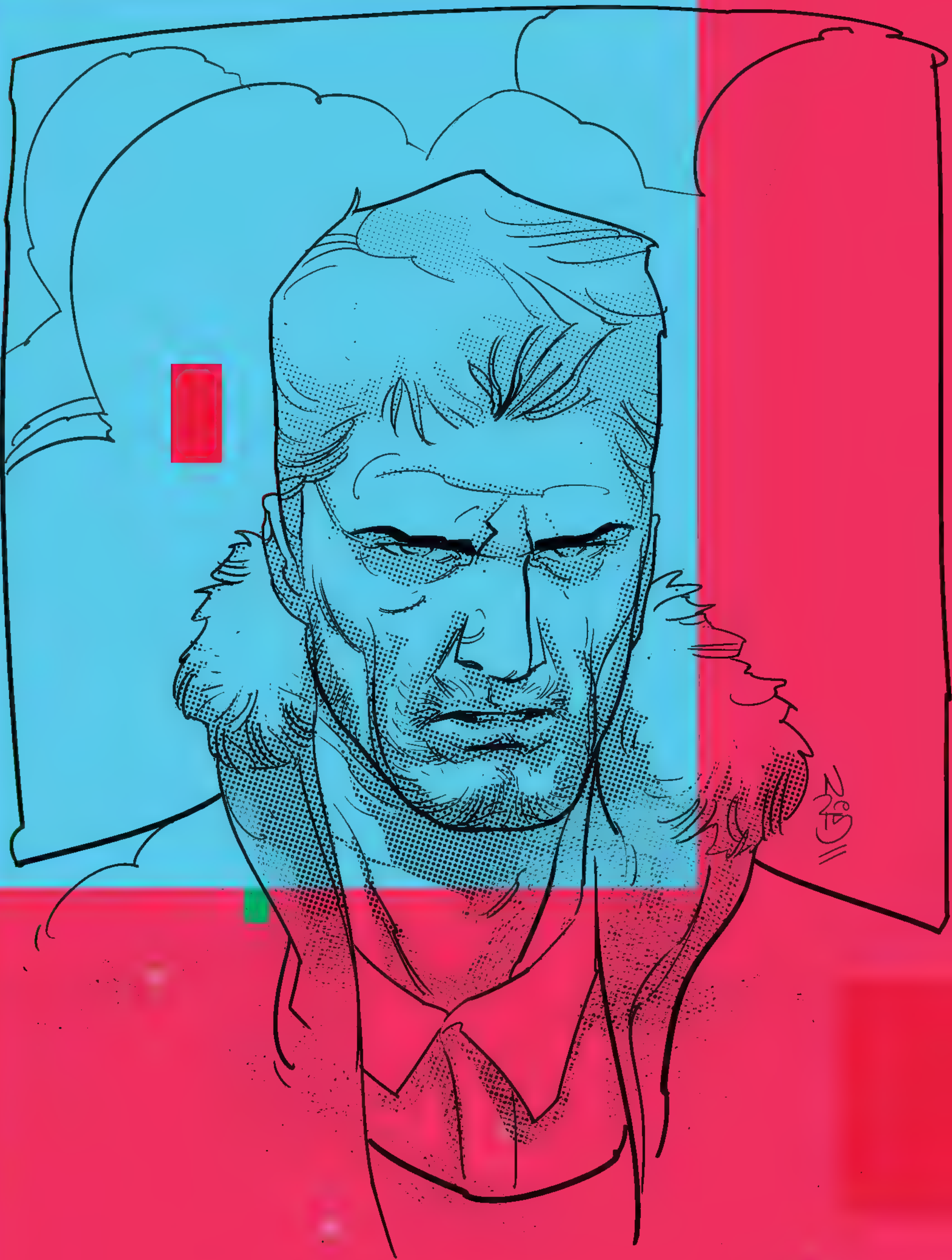


FESTIVAL SKETCHES BY NIC KLEIN

















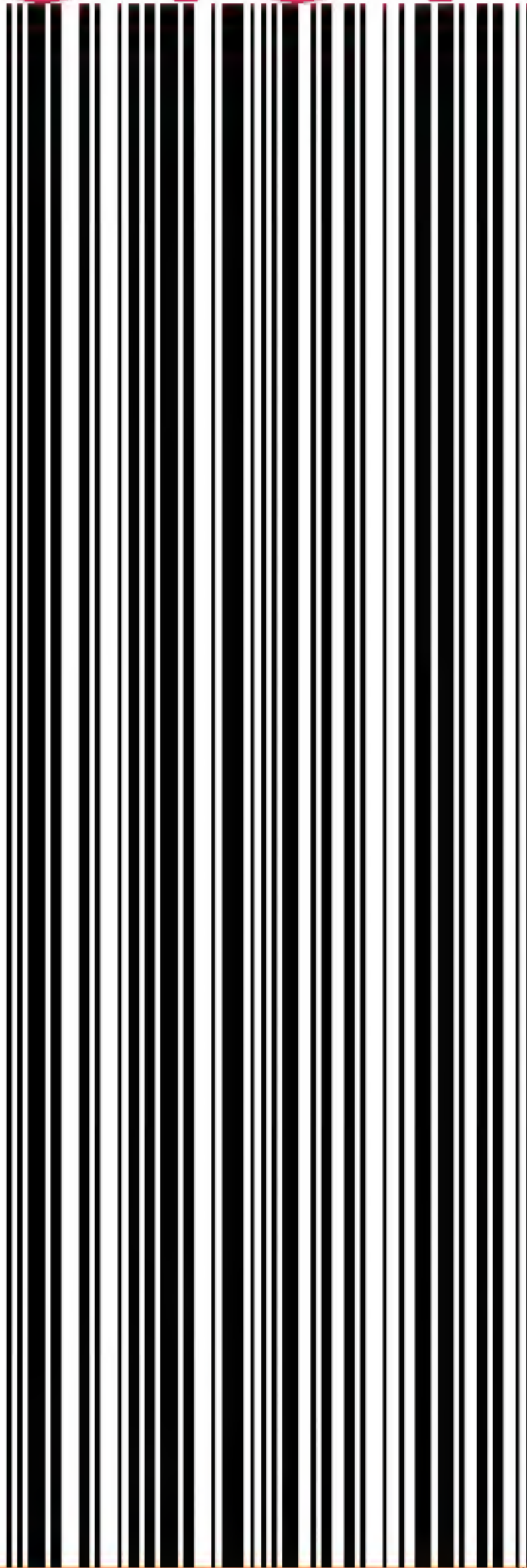
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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...  
THIS MONSTER!"

